and continuous upgradation of networked system. The total amount received on this account is being collected from the Zonal Railways.

Procedure for new recruitments in Railways

3508. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the procedure of new recruitments in Railways;

(b) whether there is great discontentment among the people of Orissa on the recruitment of Group 'D' and 'C' staff in East Coast Railway;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether G.M. of any zonal office has the power to appoint people as per his own choice through interview?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Group 'C' and 'D' posts on the railways are filled up through selection from open market through the agency of Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) and Railway Recruitment Cells (RRCs) respectively. Vacancies to be filled up have to be given wide publicity including publication in the Employment News, national and local dailies and all those who apply are considered for employment on the railways. This procedure is in conformity with the guidelines laid down by Department of Personnel and Training (which is the nodal department) pursuant to the directives of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. No regional or provincial bias is permissible while making recruitment in Railways.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Issue regarding providing of employment in Group 'C' and 'D' posts on East Coast to the persons who are not residents of Orissa has been raised in State Assembly by several Members.

(d) General Manager (G.M.) of a Zonal railway is empowered to engage persons as substitutes in administrative exigencies.

Vacancy in group 'C' and 'D'

3509. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts remained vacant in 'C' and 'D' category during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, year and category-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that Apex Court had directed to regularize the services of catering employees and commission vendors in Railways on as and when vacancy basis;

(c) if so, when the verdict was given by the Hon'ble Apex Court; and

(d) the details of the verdict thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Number of posts remained vacant in 'C' and 'D' category during the period 2004-05 to 2007-08, year and category-wise is as under:—

Year	Category 'C'	Category 'D'
2004-05 (as on 31.3.05)	134515	41166
2005-06 (as on 31.3.06)	129940	35731
2006-07 (as on 31.3.07)	123358	49958
2007-08*	127745	52196

* NOTE:— Figures for the year 2007-08 are as on 29.2.08 and are provisional.

(b) to (d) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 19.12.1983 in Writ Petition No. 6804-05 opined that Government would take steps to absorb all the commission bearers and vendors progressively as members in permanent Railway service.

Effects of climatic change

†3510. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of having trained personnel at the level of villages all over the country is under consideration to save the agriculture from the effects of climatic change;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the system of having co-ordination by them with various Ministries and the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such scheme is under consideration of the Government. However, ICAR initiated a Network Project on impact, adaptation and vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change. The Government also undertakes several measures to create awareness about environmental issues which include, *inter alia,* the following:

(i) National Environment Awareness Campaign (NEAC) is being implemented with the objective of creating environmental awareness at the national level through designated Regional Resource Agencies (RRAs) appointed for specific States/ Regions of the country.

(ii) Workshops/conferences/seminars are organized with the support from the Ministry of Environment and Forests on the issue of environment and climate change and publications are brought out.

(iii) Eco-clubs are set up with the Central assistance in schools through out the country.

(iv) A project for Strengthening of Environmental Education in School System (STRESS) is being implemented.

(v) Various events are organized/observed for creating awareness regarding preservation and conservation of the environment *e.g.* World Environment Day, Earth Day, Ozone Day etc.

(c) At the national level, the integration of climate change in national development is guided by the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, which includes representation of key Ministries, as well as experts, and representatives of industry and of media. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.